IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-35. (Canceled)

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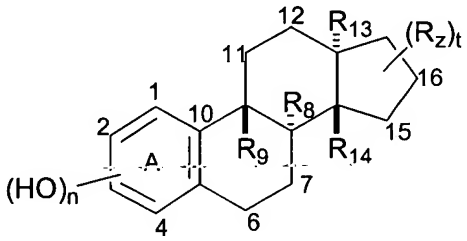
36. (Currently Amended) A compound having cytoprotective activity, the compound having the formula ~~(I), or a diastereomeric configuration thereof~~:



~~(I)~~

wherein

the compound ~~optionally~~ has one or more unsaturated bonds in conjugation with the aromatic A ring between carbons 6 and 7, 8 and 9, or 9 and 11, in which event one or both of R^8 and R^9 will be absent;

n ranges from 1 to 4;

t ranges from 1 to 3;

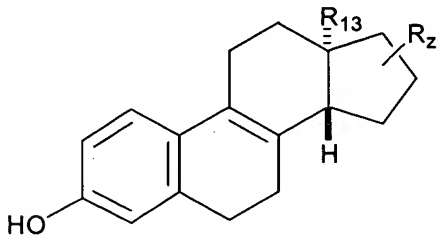
R^8 and R^9, when present, are independently hydrogen or alkyl;

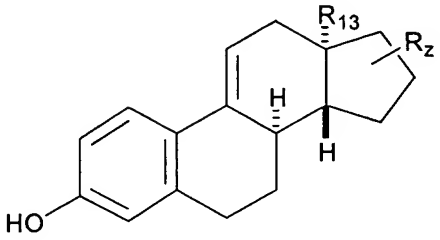
R^{13} is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl, or halo~~, amido, sulfate or nitrate~~;

R^{14} is hydrogen or alkyl;

each R^z is independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, halo, amido, sulfate, or nitrate~~, provided however, when (i) the compound does not contain at least one unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring, (ii) R^8, R^9 and R^{14} are hydrogen, and (iii) R^{13} is methyl, R^z is other than hydrogen and is not hydroxy or oxo when the D-ring is only substituted at carbon 17~~.

37. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 36 wherein, when the compound has one of the following structures:





wherein t is 1, R^{13} is methyl and R^z is other than hydroxy.

38. (Original) The compound of claim 37 wherein R^z is cycloalkyl or cycloalkenyl.

39. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 36 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 9 and 11.

40. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 39 wherein R^8 is hydrogen.

41. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 40 wherein R^{14} is hydrogen.

42. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 41 wherein R^{13} is substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl.

43. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 42 wherein R^{13} is methyl.

44. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 43 wherein R^z is a substituent on carbon 17.

45. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 44 wherein R^z is hydroxy.

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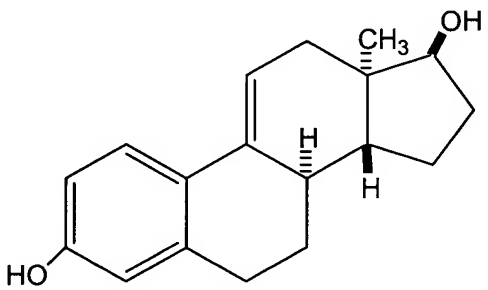
46. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 45 wherein n is 1.

47. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 46 having the structure:



48. (New) The compound of claim 36 wherein t is 2.

49. (New) The compound of claim 48 wherein a first R^z is hydroxy, and a second R^z is a spiro substituent wherein a carbon in the D ring of the compound is also a carbon in said spiro substituent.

50. (New) The compound of claim 48 wherein a first R^z is oxo, wherein a carbon atom in the D ring is a carbonyl carbon, and a second R^z is a spiro substituent, wherein a carbon in the D ring is also a carbon in said spiro substituent.

51. (New) The compound of claim 36 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 6 and 7.

52. (New) The compound of claim 36 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 8 and 9.

53. (New) The compound of claim 39 wherein n is 1, carbon 3 of the aromatic A-ring being hydroxy-substituted.

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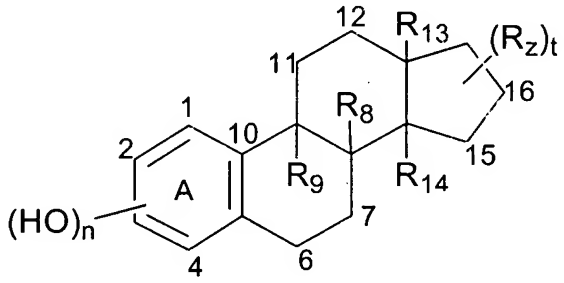
54. (New) The compound of claim 53 wherein t is 1 or 2.

55. (New) The compound of claim 54 wherein t is 1 and R^z is hydroxy.

56. (New) The compound of claim 54 wherein t is 2 and R^z is independently selected from hydroxy, oxo and spiro.

57. (New) A compound having cytoprotective activity, the compound having the formula:



wherein

the compound has (i) one or more unsaturated bonds in conjugation with the aromatic A ring between carbons 6 and 7, 8 and 9, or 9 and 11, in which event one or both of R^8 and R^9 will be absent, (ii) a stereochemical configuration of, when present, 8α, 9β, 13α and 14β, or (iii) both (i) and (ii);

n ranges from 1 to 3 and indicates the number of hydroxy substituents on the A ring, which may be present on carbon 1, carbon 2 and/or carbon 4;

t ranges from 1 to 3;

R^8 and R^9, when present, are independently hydrogen or alkyl;

R^{13} is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl, or halo;

R^{14} is hydrogen or alkyl;

each R^z is independently selected from hydrogen, hydroxy, oxo, substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, halo, amido, sulfate, or nitrate, provided however, when (i) the compound does not contain at least one unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring, (ii) R^8, R^9 and R^{14} are hydrogen, and (iii) R^{13} is methyl, at least one R^z is other than hydrogen and is not hydroxy or oxo when the D-ring is only substituted at carbon 17.

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58. (New) The compound of claim 57 wherein said compound has a stereochemical configuration of 8α, 9β, 13α and 14β.

59. (New) The compound of claim 57 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 6 and 7.

60. (New) The compound of claim 57 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 8 and 9.

61. (New) The compound of claim 57 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 9 and 11.

62. (New) The compound of claim 57 wherein n is 1.

63. (New) The compound of claim 62 wherein carbon 2 or carbon 4 is hydroxy substituted.

64. (New) The compound of claim 57 wherein t is 1 or 2.

65. (New) The compound of claim 64 wherein t is 1.

66. (New) The compound of claim 65 wherein R^z is hydroxy.

67. (New) The compound of claim 64 wherein t is 2.

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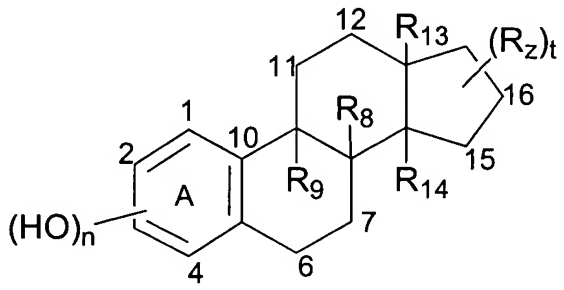
68. (New) The compound of claim 65 wherein R^z is independently selected from hydroxy, oxo and spiro.

69. (New) A compound having cytoprotective activity, the compound having the formula:



wherein

the compound has (i) one or more unsaturated bonds in conjugation with the aromatic A ring between carbons 6 and 7, 8 and 9, or 9 and 11, in which event one or both of R^8 and R^9 will be absent, (ii) a stereochemical configuration of, when present, 8α, 9β, 13α and 14β, or (iii) both (i) and (ii);

n ranges from 1 to 3;

t is 1 or 2 and indicates the number of substituents on the D ring, which may be present on carbon 15 and/or carbon 16;

R^8 and R^9, when present, are independently hydrogen or alkyl;

R^{13} is hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl or halo;

R^{14} is hydrogen or alkyl;

each R^z is independently selected from hydrogen, oxo, substituted or unsubstituted hydrocarbyl, heterocycloalkyl, heterocycloalkenyl, halo, amido,

sulfate, or nitrate, provided however, when (i) the compound does not contain at least one unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring, (ii) R^8, R^9 and R^{14} are hydrogen, and (iii) R^{13} is methyl, at least one R^z is other than hydrogen.

B1 cont

70. (New) The compound of claim 69 wherein said compound has a stereochemical configuration of 8α, 9β, 13α and 14β.

71. (New) The compound of claim 69 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 6 and 7.

72. (New) The compound of claim 69 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 8 and 9.

73. (New) The compound of claim 69 having an unsaturated bond in conjugation with the aromatic A-ring between carbons 9 and 11.

74. (New) The compound of claim 69 wherein n is 1.

75. (New) The compound of claim 74 wherein carbon 3 is hydroxy substituted.

76. (New) The compound of claim 69 wherein t is 1.

77. (New) The compound of claim 76 wherein R^z is oxo or spiro.

78. (New) The compound of claim 69 wherein t is 2.

79. (New) The compound of claim 78 wherein R^z is independently selected from oxo and spiro.